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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **MIDDLESEX SILVER CO. LIMITED** [GB/GB]; Middlesex University, Queensway, Enfield, Middlesex EN3 4SA (GB).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **JOHNS, Peter, Gammon** [GB/GB]; 39 Richmond Drive, Watford, Hertfordshire WD17 3BQ (GB). **HARRISON, Clare, Elizabeth** [GB/GB]; 23 Salmons Road, Edmonton N9 7JT (GB).
- (74) Agent: **COLE, Paul, Gilbert**; Lucas + Co., 135 Westhall Road, Warlingham, Surrey CR6 9HJ (GB).
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(54) Title: **ENHANCING SILVER TARNISH-RESISTANCE**

(57) **Abstract:** An alkanethiol, alkyl thioglycollate, dialkyl sulfide or dialkyl disulfide may be used to surface treat of an alloy of silver containing an amount of germanium that is effective to reduce firestain and/or tarnishing. The treatment has been found to further reduce tarnishing of the alloy such that a sample can be supported close above a 20% solution of ammonium polysulphide for at least 30 minutes while retaining a generally untarnished appearance. The treatment may be carried out at the end of manufacturing a shaped article to give rise to an article that will preserve its untarnished appearance both during transit to a point of sale but during subsequent display for an extended period. The invention therefore also includes a method for manufacturing a tarnish-resistant silver article, which comprises the steps of forming a shaped article of an alloy of silver containing an amount of germanium that is effective to reduce firestain and/or tarnishing, surface treating the article with an alkanethiol, alkyl thioglycollate, dialkyl sulphide or dialkyl disulphide; and introducing the article into packaging. Also disclosed for use in treating an alloy of silver as aforesaid is a water-based composition comprising a treatment agent selected from an alkanethiol, alkyl thioglycollate, dialkyl sulfide or dialkyl disulfide and a mixture of an anionic surfactant and an amphoteric or nonionic surfactant in a concentration that is effective to solubilise the treatment agent.

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